

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A composite sleeve seal comprising:

a cylindrical body having an outside diameter, an inside diameter, one end portion and an ~~opposite~~ opposite end portion, said cylindrical body further comprising a plurality of collar sections spaced apart from one another to define a gap between adjacent collar sections, each said collar section having a central axis coaxially aligned with each other said collar sections, said opposite end portion of said cylindrical body defining a one of said plurality of collar sections having a partial tapered portion along said outside diameter of said cylindrical body, said one end portion of said cylindrical body further defining at least one collar section having said inside diameter and said outside diameter; and

at least one three link segments segment extending between said one end portion and said tapered portion of said cylindrical body spanning said gap interconnecting each of said plurality of collar sections, said three link segments equally spaced circumferentially apart, said three link segment having segments circumferentially defining an ~~outer diameter~~ outermost surface smaller in diameter than said outside diameter of said cylindrical body and an ~~inner diameter~~ innermost surface greater in diameter than said inside diameter of said cylindrical body to define a at least one first annular outer groove between said adjacent collar section and said

~~tapered portion~~ sections and a at least one first ~~second~~ annular inner groove between said adjacent collar sections ~~section and said tapered portion~~;

at least one first seal ~~portion~~ mounted in said at least one first annular outer groove;

at least one second seal ~~portion~~ mounted in said at least one first ~~second~~ annular inner groove, said ~~at least one seal portion and said at least one second seal portion further mounted contiguous said one end portion of said cylindrical body and said opposite end portion defining said tapered portion and surrounding said at least one three link segment segments to interlock said at least one first seal mounted in said annular outer groove portion and said at least one second seal mounted in said annular inner groove of portion with said cylindrical body portion to form said composite sleeve seal as one integral component.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A composite sleeve seal for sealing a conduit connection, said composite sleeve seal comprising:

a cylindrical body having an outside diameter, an inside diameter, one end portion and an opposite end portion defining a partial tapered portion along said outside diameter of said cylindrical body, said one end portion of said cylindrical body defining a plurality of collar sections spaced apart from one another to define ~~at least one a gap therebetween~~ between adjacent collar sections, said plurality of collar sections being interconnected by ~~at least one three link segment segments equally circumferentially spaced and spanning said at least one gap to interconnect each of said plurality of collar sections~~;

~~each of said at least one three link segments~~ circumferentially defining an outermost surface having an outer diameter smaller in diameter than said outside diameter of said

cylindrical body and an innermost surface ~~inner diameter~~ greater in diameter than said inside diameter of said cylindrical body to define a at least one first annular outer groove between adjacent collar sections and a at least one second annular inner groove ~~between each of said plurality of adjacent~~ adjacent collar sections;

a at least one first resilient seal member mounted in said at least one first annular outer groove; and

a at least one second resilient seal member mounted in said at least one first ~~second~~ annular inner groove, said first and second resilient seal members further mounted contiguous each said plurality of collar sections and surrounding each of said ~~at least one~~ three link segments to interlock said first resilient seal member mounted in said first annular outer groove and said second resilient seal member mounted in said first annular inner groove with said cylindrical body ~~portion~~ to form said composite sleeve as one integral component.

18. (Currently Amended) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said at least one collar section is made of a plastic material and said at least one seal portion and said at least one second seal portion is made of a ~~rubber~~ an elastomer material.

19. (Currently Amended) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said ~~at least one link segment comprises~~ three link segments interconnecting each of said plurality of collar sections, ~~said three link segments being located between and are~~ spaced 120° apart about said inside and outside diameters of said cylindrical body.

20. (Currently Amended) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 17 wherein each of said plurality of collar sections is made from a plastic material and said first and second resilient seal members are made from ~~a rubber~~ an elastomer material.

21. (Currently Amended) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 17 wherein ~~each of said at least one link segment comprises~~ three link segments interconnecting each of said ~~three link segments being located between and~~ plurality of collar sections are circumferentially spaced 120° apart about the inside and outside diameters of said cylindrical body.